

SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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BY THE
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CODE
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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PETER PARKER,
I KNOW YOU'RE
SPIDER-MAN--

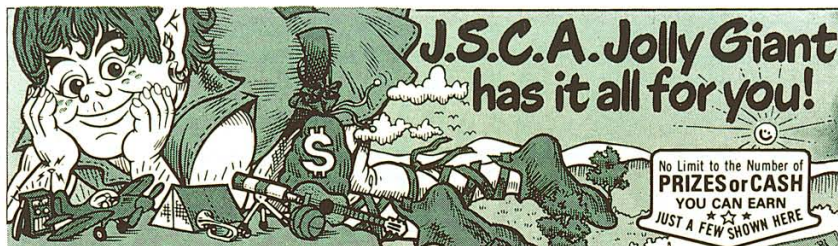
--AND I HAVE
THE PHOTOS TO
PROVE IT!



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HOW DO THESE PICTURES REVEAL
SPIDEY'S SECRET IDENTITY? YOU'LL
NEVER *KNOW*, UNLESS YOU READ...
CONFRONTATION!

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PRIZES or CASH
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JUST A FEW SHOWN HERE



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It costs you nothing.

Enroll now as a member of the Junior Sales Club of America. We'll send you a Free Prize Catalog, Membership Card, full selling information plus your first order of 12 boxes of lovely All Occasion Greeting Cards. As each order is sold, you may reorder additional cards until you've met your prize requirements. Cards are sent on credit. YOU PAY NOTHING IN ADVANCE.

Each box of 18 fine quality greeting cards costs just \$2.00. That's about 11¢ a card. Think of all the people you know — relatives, friends, neighbors — who'll want to buy these handsome cards by the box. Many J.S.C.A. members have earned a prize in only a few hours. IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY TAKE AS YOUR PRIZE 70¢ FOR EACH BOX YOU SELL.

Here's all you have to do to receive your first order of greeting cards. Cut out postage-free label and paste on any envelope. Fill in coupon, place in envelope and mail. You may take up to 30 days to sell them. If after that time you have any boxes unsold, promptly return them prepaid by parcel post, keeping 70¢ for each box you've sold.

Get the prizes you want the fast, easy J.S.C.A. way. Act now!

Junior Sales Club of America

Dept. 77MC-2, Springfield, Mass. 01101

Enroll me as a member of J.S.C.A. Send FREE Membership Card, FREE Prize Catalog, full details on how to get valuable prizes plus my first order of 12 All Occasion Greeting Card Boxes to sell.

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™**

LEN WEIN | ROSS ANDRU | MIKE ESPOSITO | GLYNIS WEIN | IRV WATANABE
WRITER/EDITOR | ILLUSTRATOR | EMBELLISHER | COLORIST | LETTERER

IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE THIS EVENING SO FAR, THAT WORD WOULD HAVE TO BE "DULL" -- EXCEEDINGLY DULL !!

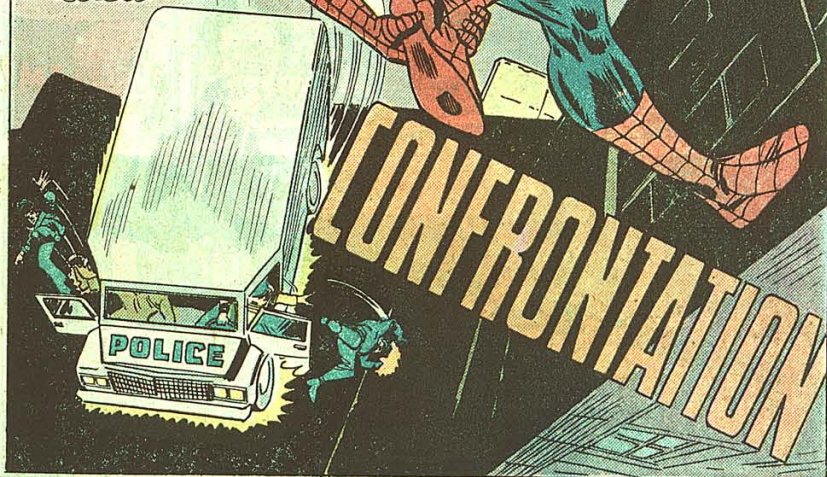
FOR SEVERAL HOURS NOW, EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE WALL CRAWLER HAS SCoured MANHATTAN IN SEARCH OF A LITTLE ACTION TO LIVEN THINGS UP -- BUT ALL HE HAS TO SHOW FOR HIS TROUBLE THIS FAR IS...

A HOLE IN MY BOOT--?!!

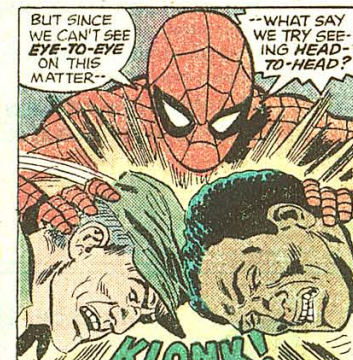
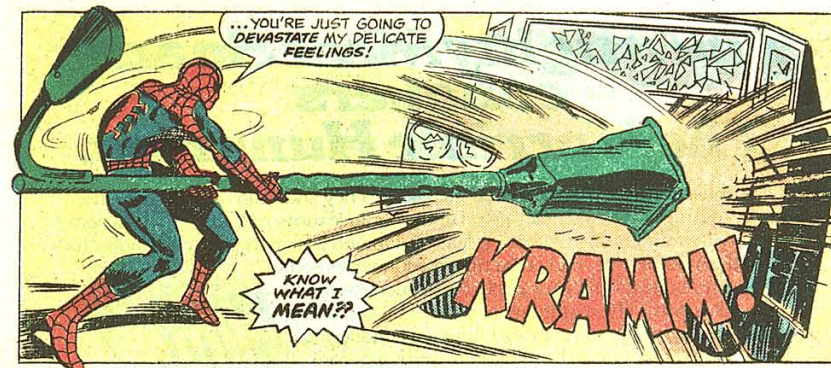
OKAY, THAT JUST ABOUT SINKS IT! I'M JUST GOING TO HEAD ON HOME, AND CRAWL INTO... HUH?

THOSE TWO COPS -- BEING TOSSIED OUT OF THEIR OWN PADDY WAGON!

WEBHEAD, YOU WERE WRONG! IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR NIGHT IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING!



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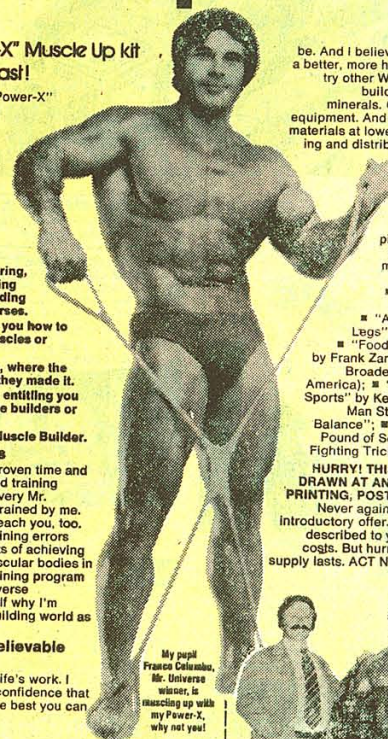
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Francis Columbus,
Mr. Universe
winner, is
muscling up with
my Power-X,
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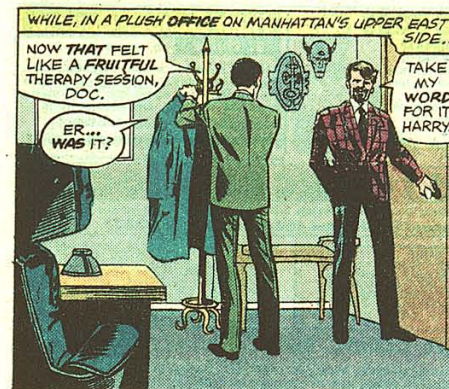
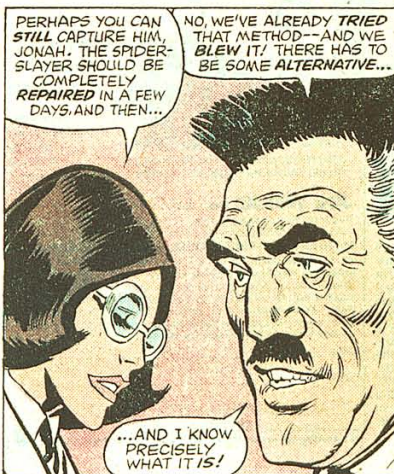
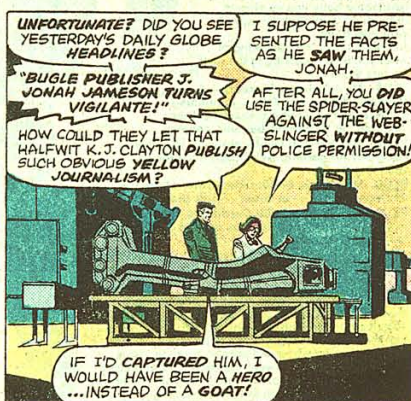
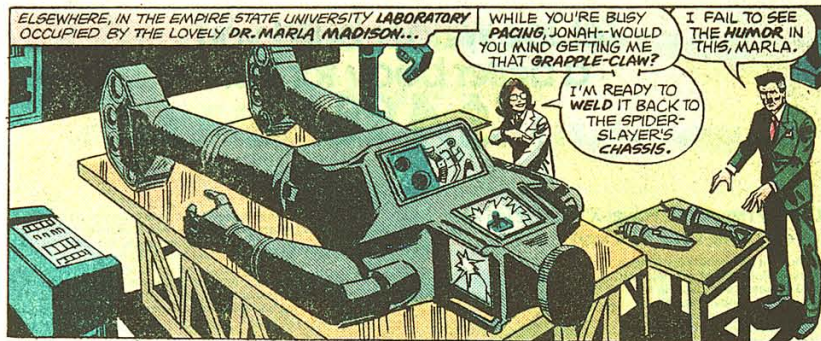
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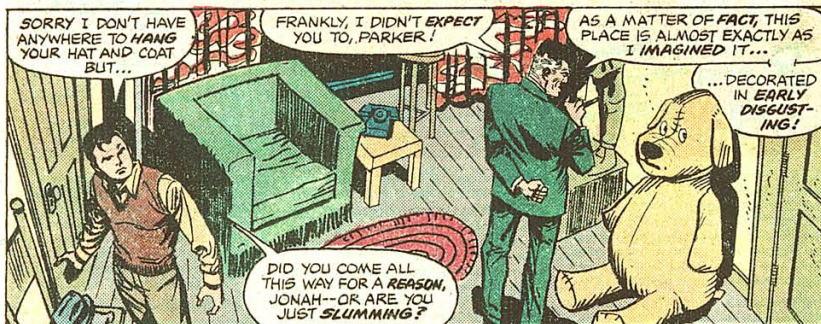
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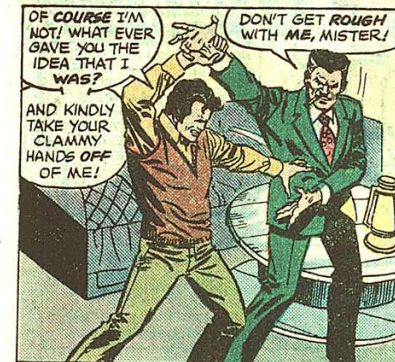
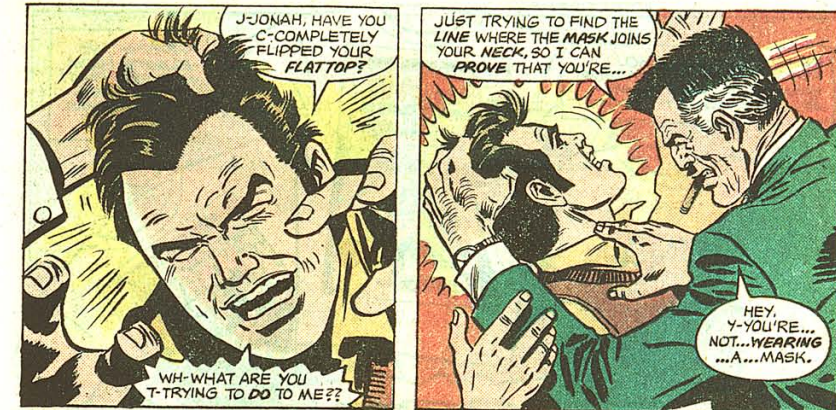
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J. Johnson

"I was a skinny weakling when I enrolled, now I've gained 30 pounds in just 45 days. I am truly amazed, I'm going to be dynamite on the beach."
B. Abbott

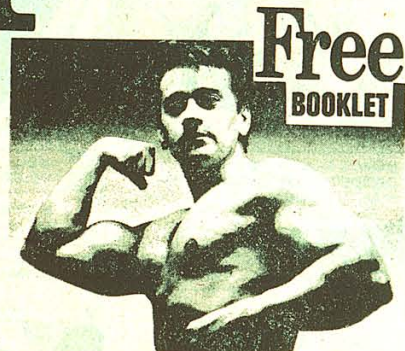


"In just 3 weeks I have gained 1 1/2" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day."
D. Roberts

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P. Williams

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B. Daniels

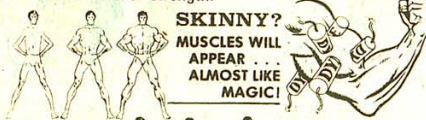
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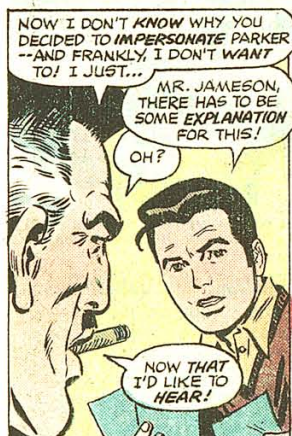
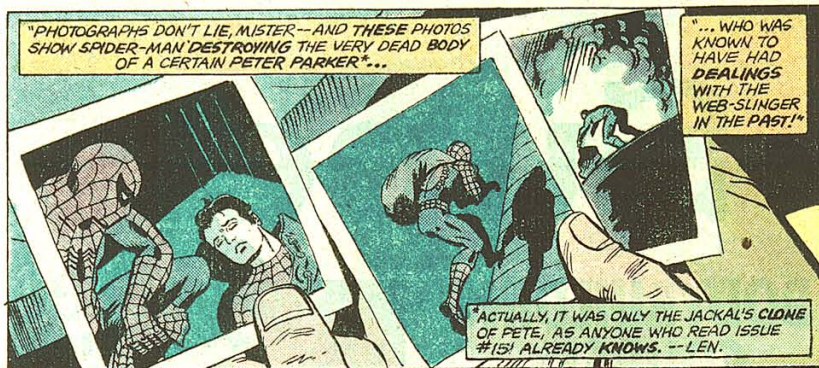
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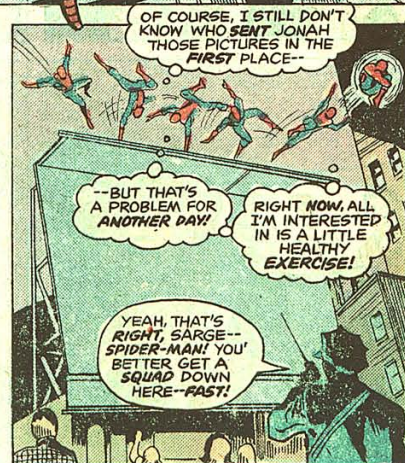
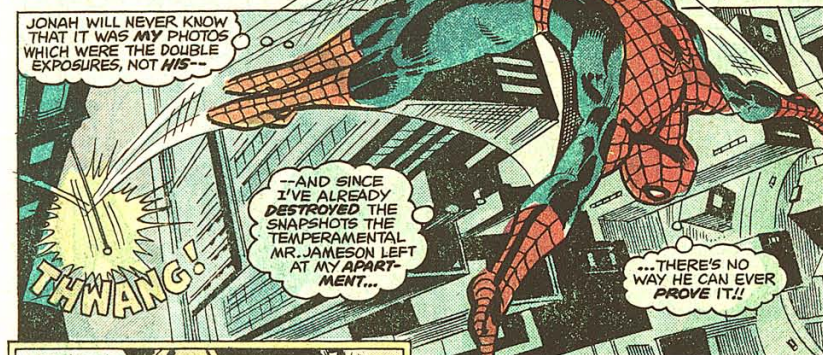
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F-77

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C. 10022

EVERYBODY IS A STAR DEPARTMENT: Hey, in case you're wondering where you recognize those two young spectators on page 16, panel 4 from—well, they just happen to be Brooklyn's own Classy CLANCY LITTLE and Mellow MICHELE SNYDERMAN, the fury of Freehold, New Jersey, winners of the super-special SPIDER-MAN DANCE CONTEST on TV's Sunday morning sensation, WONDERAMA, a few months back. These cavortin' cameo shots are just our way of saying congratulations, kids, on a job well done.

Frankly, we don't know who that tall guy with the moustache is, save that he bears a startling resemblance to a certain peerless publisher we know and love (and, no, his name is *not* J. Jonah Jameson).

Now, on with reality...

Dear Marvel,

One of the things that's been wrong with SPIDER-MAN lately is that, while there's a lot going on in both the main storylines and the subplots, nothing much seems to get resolved. There've been times when one would've liked to jump in and say: "Hey, people, you can work this out if you'll just put your minds to it." Well, with the appearance of SPIDER-MAN #165, Len Wein has done just what I'm sure most of us wanted him to: he's straightened out the situation between Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson; at least to the point where they've stopped some of the silly, self-destructive things they've been doing to each other for months now. I for one think it was about time.

Of course, SPIDER-MAN #165 had a lot to say for it besides the resolution of our hero's rather strung-out love life. It featured the return of Stegrom, the Dinosaur Man (not to mention a furious battle between him and the wall-crawler), as well as Dr. Curt Connors' reversion to his reptilian alter ego. I say that the Lizard is one of your very best villains, and that the current situation is intriguing and exciting. Since SPIDER-MAN could use a healthy dose of both intrigue and excitement, this development can't help but prove beneficial.

Edward B. Via
1648 Dean Road
Roanoke, VA 24018

We couldn't agree more, Ed, and within the next few months, you can expect to see much more of the same; for example, the cataclysmic confrontation between our harried hero and J. Jonah in this selfsame issue.

Lively Len Wein is notorious for being a long-range plotter (he has the storyline worked out on THOR for the next two years, not to mention what he has planned for HULK and FANTASTIC FOUR), and sometimes, working this far in advance, he tends to lose an issue-by-issue perspective on things. But, fortunately, the true editors of our books—namely Marveldom Assembled—is always ready, willing, and able to pull him back into line.

In other words, Ed, we'll try to tie up some of our sensational subplots more quickly in the future. Okay? Okay.

Dear Len and Ross,

SPIDER-MAN #165 was a very well written story. Len has been getting better and better with each passing issue. It's been nice seeing Dr. Connors again, and J.J.J. has me puzzled with his latest scheme. Ross, you're doing a good job, too. All in all, issue #165 was excellent.

However, I spotted a mistake which occurred several times. It concerns Stegrom's speech pattern. Whenever the Dinosaur Man pronounces a word with an "s" sound in it, he hisses it. However, on a number of pages there are words with an "s" sound—Mrs., certain, recently, and once for example—in Stegrom's dialog that are lacking the exaggerated hiss.

It was still a good issue, though.

Dan Long
442 South Belford Avenue
Holyoke, CO 80734

You're absolutely right about those aforementioned words lacking that extra sibilance, Dan. Y'see, Lively Len was afraid that by spelling them so as to indicate the sibilant hiss, they just wouldn't look right on the printed page. So, he spelled them normally, and just sort of assumed the sibilance as a given.

If any of you faithful ones feel cheated by Len's decision, you can just go back and read the story again, adding the "s" sound wherever you see fit.

The first hiss is on us, okay?

Gentlemen,

It's high time someone mentioned the fine job Ross Andru has been doing on SPIDER-MAN. Not since Ditko has there been as conscientious a penciler on the strip, nor one as successful in capturing the mood and style that made the strip the most popular of them all. Comic-book fans are rarely as appreciative of honest craftsmanship as of flashy techniques or special effects, so the care and skill Mr. Andru has brought to the strip have gone largely unnoticed.

Sequences like page fourteen of SPIDER-MAN #165 demonstrate what can be done with a simple conversation. The variations in perspective and design and the attention to backgrounds evident in the scene are heartening to the enthusiast, showing that there is a good deal of thought and research behind the strip.

Presently, Mr. Andru's work is second only to John Buscema's in the Marvel line. With the right inkers, he can do wonders.

Frank Miller
RFD #2
Montpelier, VT 05602

What's left for us to say, Frank? You said it all...beautifully. From Ross, Len and the whole batty Bullpen (who are some of Ross's biggest fans), many thanks!

Dear Len and Ross,

If page 16, panel 6 of SPIDER-MAN #165 was not intended as a direct send-up of E.C.'s classic "Blind Alleys", I'll eat my Howard the Duck button.

Mike Deangelis
120 Wayne Court East
Redwood City, CA 94063

Sorry, Mike, Lively Len's inspiration for that deathless quote ("...And then some idiot turned off the lights!") was the same as Al Feldstein's must have been, i.e., those many years ago. In other words, the quote is the exact opposite of the punchline from one of Ray Bradbury's greatest short shockers, "The October Game".

Oh, let us know how that Duck button tastes, huh? We hear they're great with mustard and sauerkraut.

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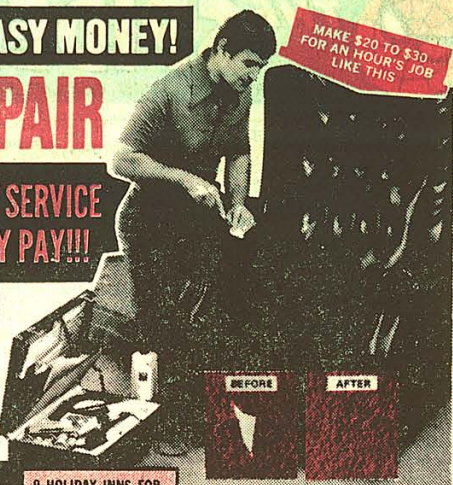
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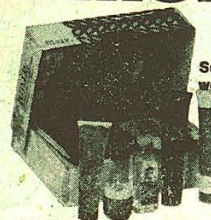
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AND NO SOONER SAID...

HUMP!



NO, YOU'RE NOT, BRIGHT-EYES-- NOT SO LONG AS THERE ARE LAWS AGAINST LITTERING!

THWIP!

SPAK!

J-JEEZ, SPIDER-MAN-- GIMME A BREAK, WILL YA?

M-MY HEART CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE 'A THIS!



...THAN DONE!

CONGRATULATIONS, CHUM! YOU'RE THE NEXT CONTESTANT ON THE \$64,000 QUESTION!

SWEET MAMA! IT--IT'S SPIDER-MAN!?! WH--WHADDAYA WANT WIT' ME, WEB-HEAD? I--I DON'T KNOW NUTHIN'!

THEN WHAT SAY YOU TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, ACE--

--BEFORE YOUR TREMBLING FORCES ME TO DROP YOU AGAIN!

Y-Y-YOU-- YOU WOULDN'T-?!

DON'T WORRY, PAL--I CAN ALWAYS CATCH YOU WITH MY TRUSTY WEBBING...

...ASSUMING, OF COURSE, MY WEB-SHOOTERS AREN'T EMPTY!



LISTENING TO YOU TALK, CHUCKLES--I'M INCLINED TO AGREE! BUT I STILL...

HEY, STOP STRUGGLING LIKE THAT! YOU'LL...

OBOY.

KRRIPP!

OH, LORD--I'M GONNA DIE!!



NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO TALK-- OR ARE WE BOTH GOING TO FIND OUT ABOUT MY WEBBING THE HARD WAY?

N-NO... YOU WIN!

I'LL TELL YA ANYTHIN' YA WANNA KNOW!

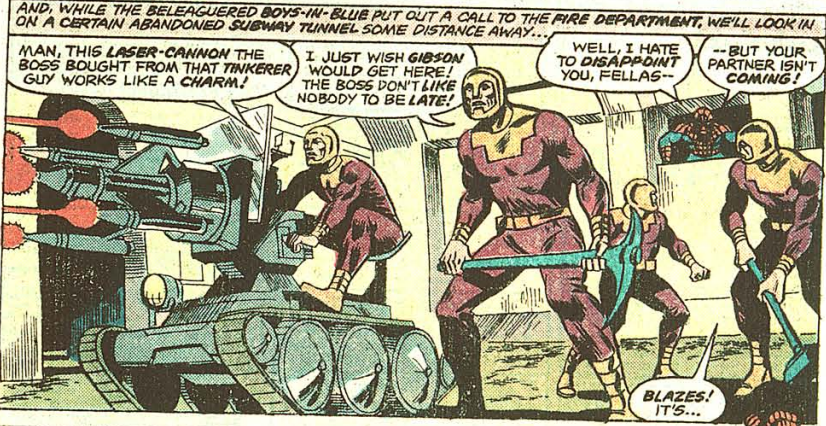


THUS, A SHORT WHILE LATER...

TELL ME, HANK--WHY DO ALL THE CRAZIES SHOW UP ON OUR BEAT?

LAST WEEK, IT WAS THAT YOYO IN THE CHICKEN SUIT-- NOW THIS!

THE PROBLEM IS-- HOW DO WE GET THAT UNCONSCIOUS BOZO DOWN FROM THERE?



AND, WHILE THE BELEAGUERED BOYS-IN-BLUE PUT OUT A CALL TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, WE'LL LOOK IN ON A CERTAIN ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

MAN, THIS LASER-CANNON THE BOSS BOUGHT FROM THAT TINKERER GUY WORKS LIKE A CHARM!

I JUST WISH GIBSON WOULD GET HERE! THE BOSS DON'T LIKE NOBODY TO BE LATE!

WELL, I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, FELLAS--

--BUT YOUR PARTNER ISN'T COMING!

BLAZES! IT'S...

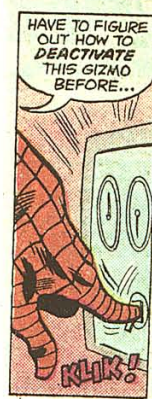
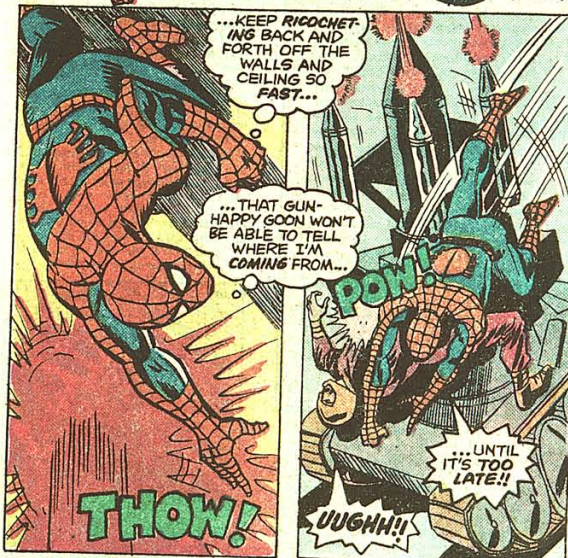


UUNNFF!!

BTOK!

YOUR DICTION IS TERRIBLE, CHUM--THE NAME IS SPIDER-MAN!!

BUT YOU CAN CALL ME SIR!



ZOUNDS! A ZEALFUL ZETETIC OF ZESTFUL ZANIES TO ZAP THE ZEITGEIST!

STAN LEE'S SOARBOX

Hang onto your hats, heroes, 'cause here's the sizzling secret we've been sitting on for months! At last we can tell you the dynamite news! From now on, mighty Marvel—and only mighty Marvel—will be bringing you the monthly adventures of TARZAN—as well as JOHN CARTER OF MARS!!! That's right, Charlie! Can you imagine it? All the way-out wonderment of the great Edgar Rice Burroughs masterpieces brought to you by Marvel's most titanic talents! Starting March 22nd, you'll be able to pounce upon the very first TARZAN issue written by Rascally ROY THOMAS and drawn by Big JOHN BUSCEMA! Then, while your head's still swimmin', you can also grab JOHN CARTER OF MARS, sensationally scripted by our own Marvelous MARV WOLFGAN and illustrated through the magic of Garrulous GIL KANE and Daring DAVE COCKRUM! Get to the newsstand early—send for a fast subscription—do it any way you can—but don't dare miss 'em! You'll see all the Burroughs magic as it was always meant to be—Tarzan, swift and strong and savage—John Carter, big and bold and barbarous! Think of it, the very first Marvel issue of each! Museums all around the world are probably already making

room to display these historic volumes!

Yep, here's your chance to possess a couple of instant heirlooms, and thrill to the kind of pulse-pounding yarns they just aren't writing anymore! TARZAN! JOHN CARTER OF MARS! Brought to you by Marvel! I only I wasn't too shy to really plug 'em! Hey, speaking of plugs—here's another unabashed and unsolicited commercial for one of my favorite mags. In case I haven't told you (lately, that is!), we also produce a merry little masterpiece called CELEBRITY. Within its slick, sleek, and shiny pages each month you'll find photo-bios about the most colorful celebs we know—from Woody Allen to John Travolta to Arnold Schwarzenegger to The Human Fly—you'll find 'em all in a plethora of peppy pictures in my own little fun-mag! CELEBRITY! TARZAN! JOHN CARTER! I know what you're thinking! "Why are we so good to you?" Well, don't bother showering us with gratitude—just go out there and BUY! And, while you're harvesting our cheery little cornucopia of culture, I know you're all saying, "Flat justitia, ruat caelum!" Or, as Howard the Duck might put it, "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall!"

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

ITEM! The Holiday season will be well behind you by the time you read this, but we're right in the midst of it as these words are being written. So, we'd like to launch this month's Bullpen notes with a very large *thank you* to the many Marvelites kind enough to send us Christmas cards and Seasons Greetings. We love each and every one of them. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the writing-drawing-producing end of this crazy business, we momentarily forget one of the nicest things about our comics...the people who read them. Thanks again for reminding us with all those tremendous cards!

ITEM! Speaking of Christmas cards, all our staff and free-lancers are still stunned over the nifty one that Mirthful MARIE SEVERIN distributed among us. It's a detailed drawing of our entire offices and has just about everyone in the whole damned Bullpen cavorting through it. This has to be one of the wildest works of art since Peter Breughel did his last big medieval crowd scene some several centuries ago. Marie originally did the drawing as a wrap-around cover for FOOH, our fearless fan mag, and if you're one of the lucky subscribers, then you've already seen said work of art gracing your

latest issue and know whereof we speak. Perhaps next year, if we do one of our Holiday Treasures, we can persuade Ms. Severin to let us reprint her momentous masterpiece. Then, of course, the only problem will be getting everyone in the Bullpen not to do anything like dieting, hair-restyling, or extensive orthodontic work that might possibly alter their appearance...

ITEM! Last time around, we laid a hint on you about a new title in the works, namely, "He's green and mean and leaves an imprint on the scene." All those who thought it might be ANGARA, the GIANT CELERY STALK WHO WALKED LIKE A MAN get an "A" for imagination...and free psychiatric counseling. No, we were hunting about none other than GODZILLA, the mammoth movie monster whom we think is going to be every bit as big (ouch!) in comics. In about two months, you'll be able to judge for yourself, as that's when it will be on sale. In the meantime—after some editorial huddling with Artful ARCHIE GOODWIN—writer DOUG MOENCH and artist HERB TRIMPE are pouring their talent, soul, and enthusiasm into the frantic first issue. The series is going to be all original material, not adaptations of any

of the movies (though, naturally, we're going to be drawing on the Big G's background from the films), with both brand-new continuing characters as well as some old familiar faces from the mighty Marvel Universe (and just who they might be we're going to hold off telling, just to save a few surprises for you). With the new ideas and directions we have for GODZILLA, this just might possibly be the fun book of 1977...but don't believe any rumors you hear that the first thing we did was to have art director JOHNNY ROMITA design a costume for the gargantuan one!

ITEM! Just as we were about to deliver this page to the printer, MARV WOLFGAN, deadline conscious as ever, let us know that his wife MICHELE just gave birth to a baby daughter, JESSICA MORGAN (Gee, a wolfgirl!) Our congratulations to the proud, first-time parents and our love and best wishes to the three of you.

ITEM! While we're in a congratulating mood, let's also hear it for Fearless FRANK GIACIOIA, whose daughter MARY recently made him a grandfather when she had a daughter of her own. Frank is almost as proud of his new status as we are of his inking on both CAPTAIN AMERICA and our latest hit book, NOVA. We hope you're still doing them when you're a great-grandfather, Frank!



ITEM! As a final note, our apologies to BOB PINAHA, CHRIS PADAVANO, and all other members of the TRANS OF CENTRAL JERSEY. In an item in our March Bullpen Bulletin on the debut performance of the new "Ballad of Red Sonja" we neglected to mention their aid and contribution to the whole affair's success. (Okay, guys! Now will you release Howard the Duck? He's already missed important guest appearances on Face the Nation, David Brinkley's Journal, and Zoo Parade!)

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TAKE THAT AND THAT AND THAT AND THAT...

ZAP'S MUSCLES TIGHTEN LIKE STEEL SPRINGS; HIS POWERFUL ARM ACTS LIKE A PISTON AS IT SMASHES THE MULTIPLYING MONSTERS WITH JACKHAMMER FORCE. BUT--SMALL GAIN, FOR ONE ADVERSARY IS INSTANTLY REPLACED BY ANOTHER.



THERE'S NO END TO THIS MULTIPLICATION OF MYRIAD, MALEVOLENT MISFITS, IF THEY ATTACK IN A GROUP, MY HOPES WOULD SUBTRACT TO ZILCH.

THE MONSTERS BREAK RANK AND FORM A TIGHT CIRCLE AROUND CAP.

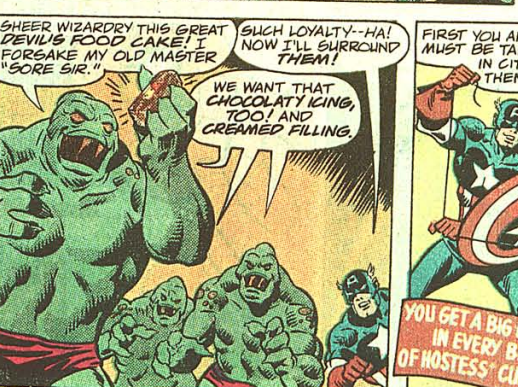
WE ARE "THE SORE SIR'S APPRENTICES." HE TELLS US GET CAPTAIN AMERICA--GET CAPTAIN AMERICA.



UH...OH! AN ALL OUT ATTEMPT--I MUST USE ALL MY CUNNING AS WELL AS POWER...

DON'T COUNT ME OUT YET, GROUP! WHEN I STOP--ONE OF YOU WILL HAVE THIS!

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SHEER WIZARDRY THIS GREAT DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE! I FORSAKE MY OLD MASTER "SORE SIR."

SUCH LOYALTY--HA! NOW I'LL SURROUND THEM!

WE WANT THAT CHOCOLATY ICING, TOO! AND CREAMED FILLING.

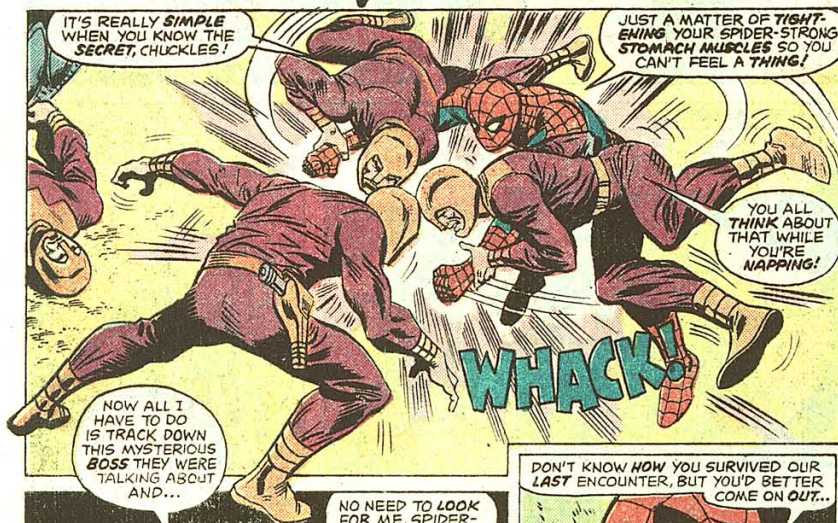
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NEXT ISSUE: MADNESS IS ALL IN THE MIND!

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